

Heavy-duty trucks and buses require emissions tests as of September 30, 1999.

Every heavy-duty diesel-powered vehicle in Ontario must pass an annual emissions test in order to have its registration renewed, as of September 30, 1999. The requirement under Ontario's Drive Clean program also applies to heavy-duty non-diesel vehicles in designated areas of Southern Ontario.

1: How will I know that my vehicle needs a test?

You will receive a notice of the emissions test requirement along with your 60-day registration renewal notice. Mailing of these notices will begin on July 30, and apply to vehicles with registration renewal deadlines of September 30, 1999 and later. If you have any questions, please call the Drive Clean Call Centre at 1-888-758-2999.

2: Exactly which vehicles are being tested?

Heavy-duty vehicles (those with registered gross weights over 4,500 kg) subject to the requirement are:

- more than three model years old;
- diesel-powered trucks and buses registered anywhere in Ontario;

- non-diesel trucks and buses – those powered by gasoline, propane or natural gas – registered in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton-Wentworth Region. This requirement for non-diesel trucks and buses will expand to 13 other urban centres and their surrounding areas in 2001.

- re-sale vehicles must also pass the test to be licenced for the road under new ownership, regardless of the vehicle's age.

3: Why do I need an emissions test?

Smog presents a serious health threat to all of us. And cars, trucks and buses are the largest single local source of smog-causing pollutants. We made testing mandatory for light-duty vehicles – cars, vans, pick-up trucks – in April, 1999 and will expand that program in 2001.

Heavy-duty vehicles account for 70 per cent of the transportation-related microscopic particles in smog that can irritate the lungs and respiratory system. Recent studies have linked these particles to cancer. When Ontario's Drive Clean is fully operational, it is expected to reduce emissions of smog-causing pollutants from vehicles by up to 22 per cent.

4: Where do I get my vehicle tested?

Vehicles must be tested at Drive Clean facilities or by Drive Clean mobile units that are accredited by the Ministry of the Environment for heavy-duty vehicle emissions tests.

Your regular vehicle service centre may become an accredited Drive Clean test facility. You will also be able to learn the locations of Drive Clean heavy-duty vehicle test facilities by calling the Drive Clean Call Centre at 1-888-758-2999 or visiting the Drive Clean web site, www.driveclean.com

Drive Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Program Areas



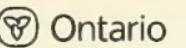
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1-888-758-2999
www.driveclean.com



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Ontario's Drive Clean emissions test may apply to you.

5: How are emissions tested?

The particulate matter in the emissions of diesel vehicles is measured in accordance with the Society of Automotive Engineers Standard "Snap Acceleration Smoke Test Procedure for Heavy-Duty Diesel-Powered Vehicles" (SAE J1607). The test measures opacity, the amount of light that is blocked by the smoke. The opacity standard for 1991 models and newer is 40%; for 1990 models and older, the standard is 55%.

A properly-tuned vehicle maintained to manufacturer's specifications should have emissions well below the applicable opacity standard.

Non-diesel trucks and buses (powered by gasoline, propane or natural gas) must pass a two-speed idle test in which carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons are measured at two pre-determined idle speeds.

Emissions testing equipment at Drive Clean facilities is connected to a central computer that contains the emissions standards data and stores the results of every test. Emissions test data from Drive Clean mobile test facilities will be transmitted to the central computer at regular intervals.

6: What happens after the test?

You will receive a test report, showing whether your vehicle passed the test or exceeded the emissions limits. If your vehicle passed, the pass certificate is presented to a Vehicle Licensing Issuing Office along with other documentation necessary for registration renewal.

7: What happens if my vehicle doesn't pass?

Your vehicle must be repaired, retested and pass a re-test. You may have repair work performed wherever you choose, or even do it yourself, since

there are no accredited repair facilities for heavy-duty vehicles. All tests and retests, however, must be performed at accredited Drive Clean test facilities or by accredited Drive Clean mobile units.

8: Is there a limit on what I must spend on repairs?

There is no limit on repair costs. Your vehicle must be repaired, no matter what the cost, until it passes the test.

9: What are you doing about out-of-province vehicles?

All vehicles, including those registered in Ontario as well as those from outside the province, will be subject to random on-road inspections by Ontario's Smog Patrol. The Smog Patrol identifies and tickets grossly polluting vehicles, those emitting thick and visible smoke from their exhaust systems. Out-of-province vehicles will be expected to meet Ontario's emissions standards, which are comparable to those of other jurisdictions.

You could be ticketed even after your Drive Clean test if your vehicle is stopped by the Smog Patrol and is found to be violating Ontario's emissions standards.

10: How do I know that the tests are accurate?

All equipment in accredited facilities must be approved by the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry also ensures that emissions inspectors are properly trained in its use. Equipment is regularly calibrated to ensure its accuracy. All results are recorded in a central computer, to aid in the monitoring and auditing. Audits will be carried out on a regular basis by a contractor retained by MOE.

11: What can I do if I disagree with the test results?

Drive Clean has a dispute resolution mechanism, which can be accessed by calling the Drive Clean Call Centre, 1-888-758-2999.

12: What are you doing to protect vehicle owners?

There is zero tolerance for fraud or consumer abuse and, if you have concerns, we want to hear about them. You will be able to register your complaints by calling the Drive Clean Call Centre, 1-888-758-2999. We are serious about protecting vehicle owners and will investigate your complaints.

13: What will the test cost?

Fees for tests and re-tests will be set by the individual facilities. The Province will receive \$15 for each pass certificate that is issued, to pay for administration of the program.

Drive Clean Program Comparisons

	Trucks & Buses	Light-duty vehicles
Test frequency	Annual	Every two years
Maximum age limit	None	19 years
Repair cost limit	None	Up to \$200, first time only
Conditional pass	None	First time only
Test fee	Market rate	\$30
Re-test fee	Market rate	\$15

14: What happens if I sell my vehicle?

All re-sale vehicles must pass an emissions test before they can be licenced for the road under new ownership. However, the Drive Clean test for heavy-duty vehicles is valid for one year and a pass report can be used for ownership transfer as well as registration renewal during that year.

15: Will I require a decal to prove my vehicle has passed?

Your current registration will be proof that the Drive Clean emission standards were met at the time of testing. However, your accredited test facility will provide you with a pass certificate to show your successful completion of the Drive Clean emissions test. As well, decals for the body of your vehicle will be available from accredited facilities to show your participation in Drive Clean. Their use is voluntary and not a legal requirement.

16: Can I test my own vehicle(s) or become an accredited Drive Clean test facility?

You will require accreditation as a Drive Clean test facility in order to test your own vehicles or those owned by others. If you are interested, call the Drive Clean Call Centre at 1-888-758-2999 for information.

**For more information call
1-888-758-2999**